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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,589	12/21/2001	John W. Hargrave	(CMS-101A)	4567

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EXAMINER
HAVAN, THU THAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3624	

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/029,589

Applicant(s)

HARGRAVE ET AL.

Examiner

Thu Thao Havan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

Claims 21-40 are pending. This action is in response to the amendment received March 13, 2006.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **21-40** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aleia et al. (US 5,991,733) in view of Patterson (US 2003/0061232).

Re claims **21** and **31**, Aleia teaches a bankruptcy practice credit manager internet system (col. 2, line 66 to col. 3, line 25), which comprises:

(a) at least one manager processor computer, each of said at least one manager processor computer having a conventional microprocessor having a central processing unit with operating system hardware and software for conventional microprocessing, including

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sufficient hardware and software to operate on the internet and having connection to operate on the internet, said at least one manager processor computer being functionally connected to an internet system and having secured access to a bankruptcy practice program on a host server (col. 6, lines 12-49),

includes access to plans of reorganization for bankrupt clients having plans of reorganization, including documents, links, and plan information, and includes access to bankruptcy court proceeding dates (col. 12, lines 61 to col. 13, line 17; Aleia revises criteria by reorganization method);

(b) a plurality of creditor processor computers, each of said creditor processor computers having a conventional microprocessor having a central processing unit with operating system hardware and software for conventional microprocessing, including sufficient hardware and software to operate on the internet and having connection to operate on the internet, said plurality of creditor process computers being functionally connector to said internet system and having access to said bankruptcy practice program on a host server (figs. 1e and 2);

(c) an internet system, including at least one host server, said at least host server having said bankruptcy practice program with sufficient software to (col. 6, lines 50-65):

(i) provide to said at least one manager processor computer access to said bankruptcy practice program, secured access to said program to set up individual bankrupt client case files, which are secured to prevent any other users from write functions with respect thereto, editing capabilities, and input and transmittal capabilities for notices (col. 11, lines 2-30);

(ii) provide to said plurality of creditor processor computers access to said bankruptcy practice program, limited access to said program to provide informational access, claimant creditor information sheet inputs and valid voting capability for plans, and to deny said plurality of creditor processor computer access to secured manager processor computer write functions (col. 13, lines 1-24). In other words, Aleia discloses managing insurance receivable accounts over the Internet that may be used as a bankruptcy practice credit manager internet system (col. 3, lines 10-25).

However, Aleia does not explicitly teach bankruptcy practice program includes a bankruptcy practice program home page that provides access to general case information and links to individual debtor and case information files. On the other hand, Patterson discloses bankruptcy practice program includes a bankruptcy practice program home page that provides access to general case information and links to individual debtor and case information files (para.0069-0079; fig. 6). Patterson discloses homepages are in the Internet system. He discloses the URL of every web site homepage contains in the net, org, and corn domains. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a homepage for an Internet bankruptcy management system as discloses in Patterson.

Re claims **22** and **32**, Aleia teaches at least one manager processor computer and said plurality of creditor processor computer include e-mail capabilities for communication with one another via said host server (col. 6, lines 11-23). Aleia discloses electronic mail.

Re claims **23** and **33**, Aleia teaches third party processor computers, which are provided read only access to said bankruptcy practice program via said at least one host server (col. 6, lines 50-65).

Re claims **24** and **34**, Aleia teaches plurality of third party processor computers includes e-mail capabilities, via said host server for communications with at least one of said at least one manager processor computers and said plurality of creditor processor computers (fig. 1E).

Re claims **25**, **35**, and **17**, Patterson teaches home page includes selection options for contacting said at least one manager processor computer (para.0069-0079; fig. 6).

Re claims **26** and **36**, Aleia teaches bankruptcy practice program provides access to claims motions (col. 18, lines 30-67).

Re claims **27** and **37**, Aleia teaches bankruptcy practice program includes access to recent case developments (col. 13, lines 25-61).

Re claims **28** and **38**, Aleia teaches bankruptcy practice program includes accessing individual bankrupt client files by claim number or case number identification (col. 14, lines 48-67). Aleia discloses account number corresponds case number identification.

Re claims **29-30** and **39-40**, Aleia teaches there are at least four levels of security providing different levels of editing for each level of security, including a master level, an attorney level, a bankruptcy client level and a third party level (figs. 14-17). Aleia teaches levels of security when he discloses tracking and flag items in each levels.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Thao Havan whose telephone number is (571) 272-8111. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct-uspto.gov/>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).

TTH
5/26/2006



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER